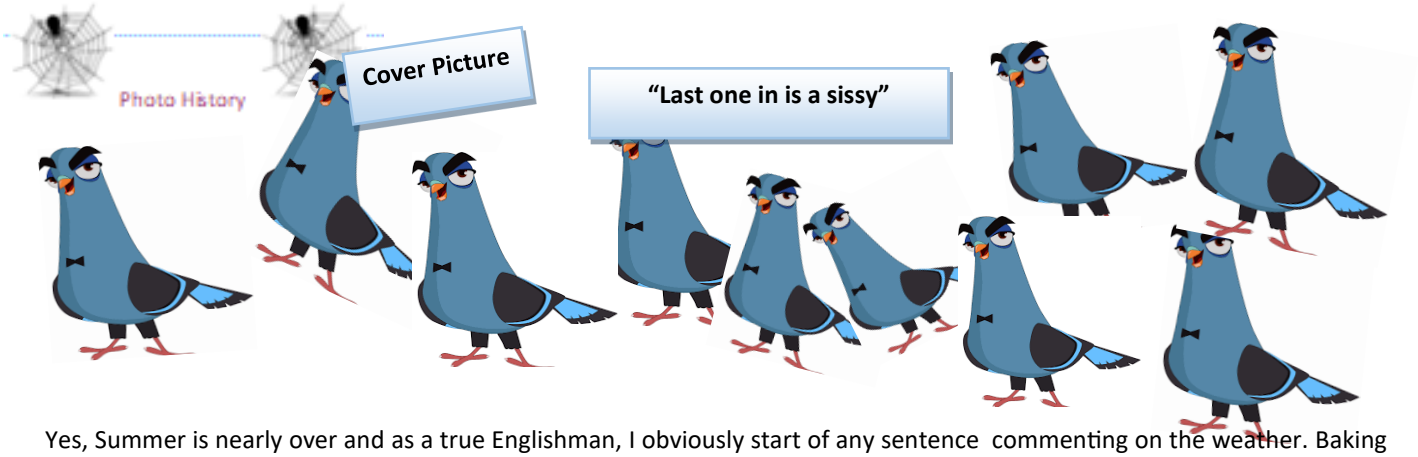
Photo History

From July 2025

(Volume 193)



Yes, Summer is nearly over and as a true Englishman, I obviously start of any sentence commenting on the weather. Baking hot days followed by some cold and some very wet days...Anyway, we made the best of it. In the last volume I indulged myself with a few of my old favourite shots and this time as Lynn and I wander around the RA Summer Exhibition, I take photos of any paintings (etc) that I find fascinating because sometimes looking at them at home is so much better. Lynn always is amazed how many she actually missed. I also find people engrossed in looking at the paintings are unaware of me shooting so I get some great informal shots too. I try not to take any where it belittles people but possibly some folk might not like my 'intrusion'...but it's not for commercial use so I feel ok with taking them.

A guy, Philip, was doing an intro to his U Tube blog and we got chatting outside in the sun. he asked me to do a piece for it and big-headed guy that I am ..how could I refuse.

We spent some time with Ivor and Judy in their holiday lodge in Suffolk and I still volunteer with the FOEC but now tend to do just a half day as it's pretty tiring (I am also giving up my lovely allotment soon...thanks so much Tammy...it was totally great). Park Runs ('Walks' in my case) are now a regular Saturday feature. Lynn has clocked up an amazing 80 and I have done a measly 65 . Lynn's time is around 43 minutes for the 5k against my slow 56 minutes, but I am happy to keep below the hour. The marshal's all wait for me with a cheer and then they go home. Lynn can't wait for her result. I never thought she would be so competitive and gets quite annoyed when people pass her.

We have organized a WhatsApp group for 'After Run' coffee and cakes locally and it is a great socializing time.

Larnie seems to have secured a great new job but I'll resist the temptation to talk about it until it materialises. She's a real 'go-getter'

Our lovely Peachy wants to travel and we were so proud of her when she took a train alone to Wales for a part time toilet-cleaning job to get some travel money. Not many youngsters would do that - so well done Peachy!

A proud time spent at Beau's graduation in Bath Spa. He looked so great and worked so hard to achieve his new status.

Tammy is busy at home and we get videos of her lawn-cutting marathons which would leave a professional gardener exhausted. DP has been fixing rigging /high wires at an event in Ireland and some photos will appear in the next volume (I hope).

Angela looked so lovely at the graduation and had arranged seats for us all in the Forum in Bath. The family (with Mary — Angela's mum) all got together at Bills afterwards and it was a special family time of happiness. We saw some delightful shots of little Lottie who has grown so much and I am ashamed that we still haven't met her in person but we hope to be able to put that right as soon as possible

Cindy and Penny and Lynn and myself are corresponding quite frequently now and it has become something that we all seem to enjoy. They are in Colorado and we met on a bus in Penzance. It seems so strange to have conversations in real time to another continent and with so much in common.

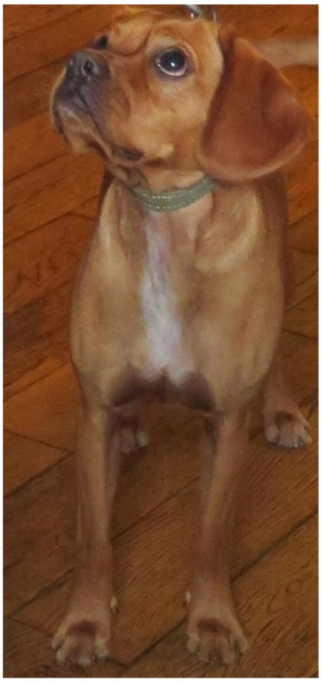
My monthly walks with the 'Lads' is still a great end to each month and we seem to have been doing this forever.

Lynn runs in the park every day and I swim the Leisure Centre. (We then sit at our small garden table with coffee and toast and feed the goldfish. A silly but really enjoyable daily ritual.) The swimmers are all a great crowd and we meet at Redford's at Crews Hill once a month and four of us meet for a quiz game once a month at one another's houses. As the wives got wind of this, six of us (three guys and wives) go out for a social nosh/chat at Delisimo and it is really a special time.

We still carry out our Mystery diner' visits unannounced to Farmer J units and report back to the CEO. All in all a busy time and we look forward sometimes to just relaxing. But as the saying goes "You're a long time dead" 2nd August 2025

We spent a couple of fun days at Carlton Meres, Ivor & Judie's holiday lodge in Suffolk

He's an old man now. NO...I'm talking about Django, the dog...not Ivor



We drove to Thorpeness and sheltered from the pouring rain , enjoying coffee and a snack. It is a popular holiday village with a whimsical literary link. The picturesque 'meare' or artificial lake is vast, covering over 60 acres with its various islands and inlets. The Meare comprises many little islands, all named by J.M Barrie, author of Peter Pan and visitors can take to one of the many little boats available to hire and drift between fairytale settings such as the pirate's lair and Wendy's house. It is only 3'0" deep. The 'house in the clouds', is an unusual water tower with a boarded house on top, appearing to float up into the sky.

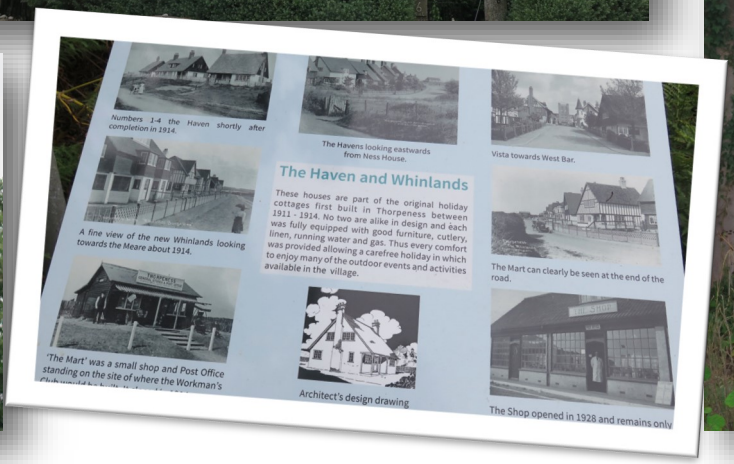
Thorpeness Windmill and House in the Clouds

This picture shows the original steel tower and water tank with fantail which first served the developing village.

This post mill was built in 1803 and originally stood in Aldringham some two miles away.

Here we see the construction of a new and bigger water tower designed to provide an adequate water supply for the village. Disguising the tower to appear as a little floating house made the wonderful House in the Clouds in 1923/24.

The old disused mill was dismantled and removed to Thorpeness where it was converted to pump water to the new tank nearby in 1923. The introduction of an area water supply scheme in 1963 saw the end of this system and pumping from the mill ceased. The tank was removed from the tower in 1977 leaving a large room for recreation. The house is now a splendid and quirky holiday accommodation.



Numbers 1-4 the Haven shortly after completion in 1914.

The Havens looking eastwards from Ness House.

Vista towards West Bar.

The Haven and Whinlands

These houses are part of the original holiday cottages first built in Thorpeness between 1911 - 1914. No two are alike in design and each was fully equipped with good furniture, cutlery, linen, running water and gas. Thus every comfort was provided allowing a carefree holiday in which to enjoy many of the outdoor events and activities available in the village.

A fine view of the new Whinlands looking towards the Meare about 1914.

The Mart can clearly be seen at the end of the road.

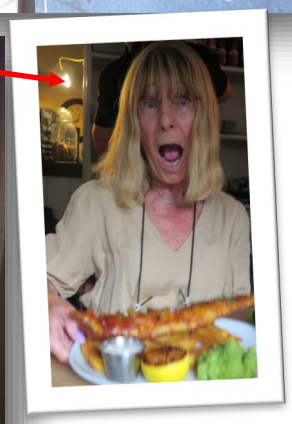
'The Mart' was a small shop and Post Office standing on the site of where the Workman's

Architect's design drawing

The Shop opened in 1928 and remains only

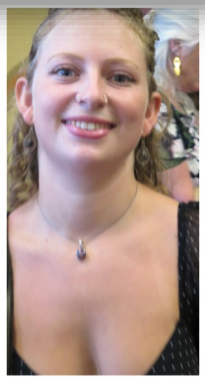
An evening meal at The Poacher's Pocket

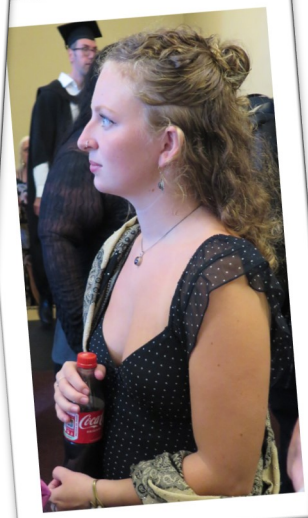
Guess it was a bigger plate of fish & chips than Lynn expected



We all enjoyed Beau's graduation ceremony at the Forum in Bath Spa in July'25

We met Beau, DP, Angela, Mary (Angela's mum) , Peachy, and sister (Belida) there

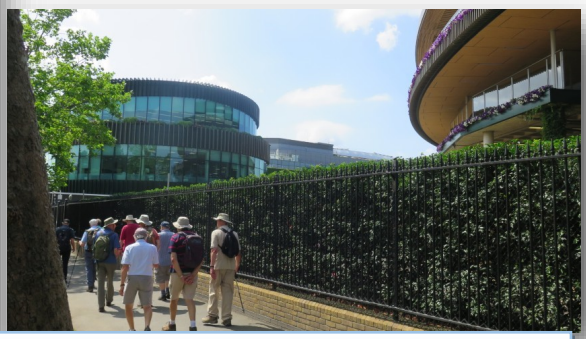




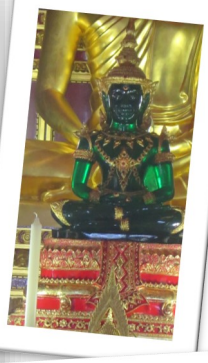
A very happy day
with proud family

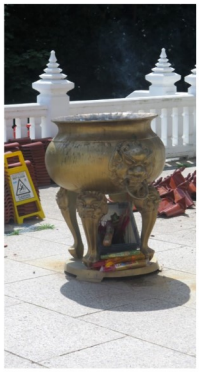
Photo History

Our monthly 'Lads' walk was organized around lovely Wimbledon by Colin (who lives there)

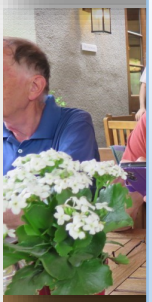


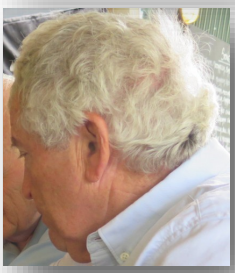
We walked past the famous Wimbledon Centre Court, went into The Buddha Temple and along the Wimbledon Common

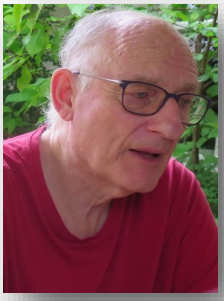




No..it's not a mistake. The unnamed walker below, expressed a desire that he did not wish to be photographed





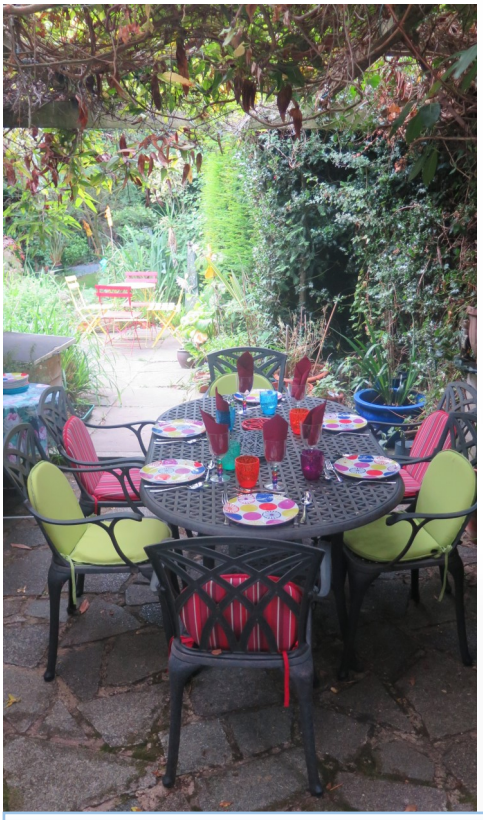


A great lunch at The Telegraph

Colin (top right) is justifiably famous for always bringing his nut to the table..
No pun intended!

As I'm predicably last in The Park Run every week, no one has ever seen what's on the front of my tee-shirt.

Pre-lunch drinks in the garden gazebo



The lunch set up by the French windows

It got chilly but we all braved lunch in the garden and a cheer went up when we retired to the house for coffee

Lynn's wonderful chilled butternut squash soup with toasted pine kernels

Vivy

Gordon

Ralph

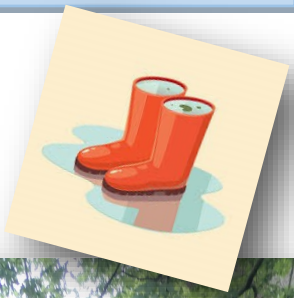
Walter

Lynn

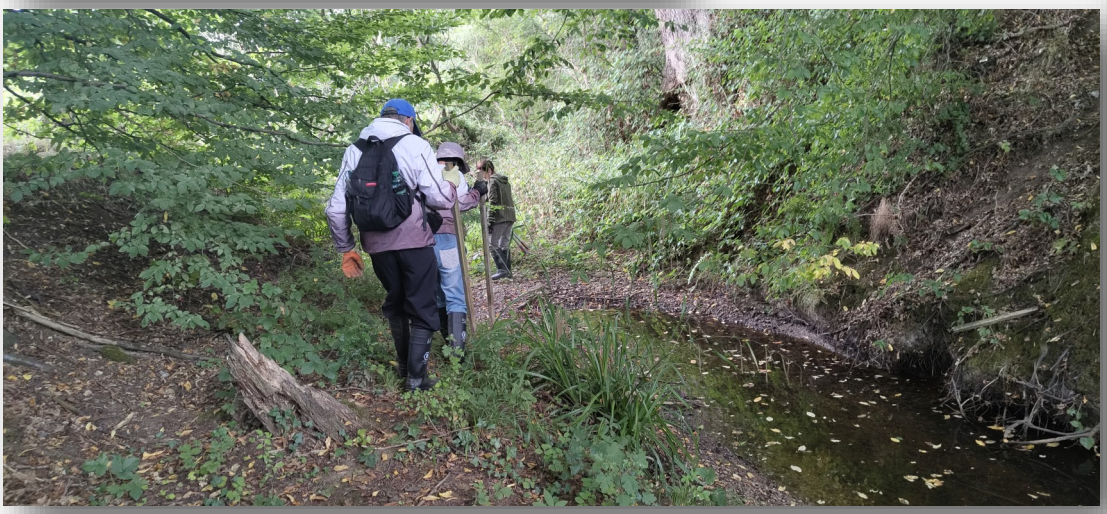
The FOEC volunteers got together to undertake a Water Vole Programme. I introduced Holly and KY and Sharman to the group and they totally enjoyed it.

After donning wellies we slid down the steep slopes into Salmon's Brook utilising a stick to check the varying depth.

...however I disregarded my stick with the consequence of flooded boots. I had to sit in our vehicle where dry boots and socks were luckily found.



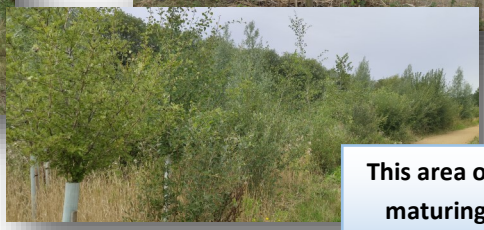
James giving information and our safety briefing



Lily with Holly and KY

The diggers at Botany Bay are making a really good rest and view area

James ex-plains the object of the vole tracking project



This area of trees maturing well makes me so proud

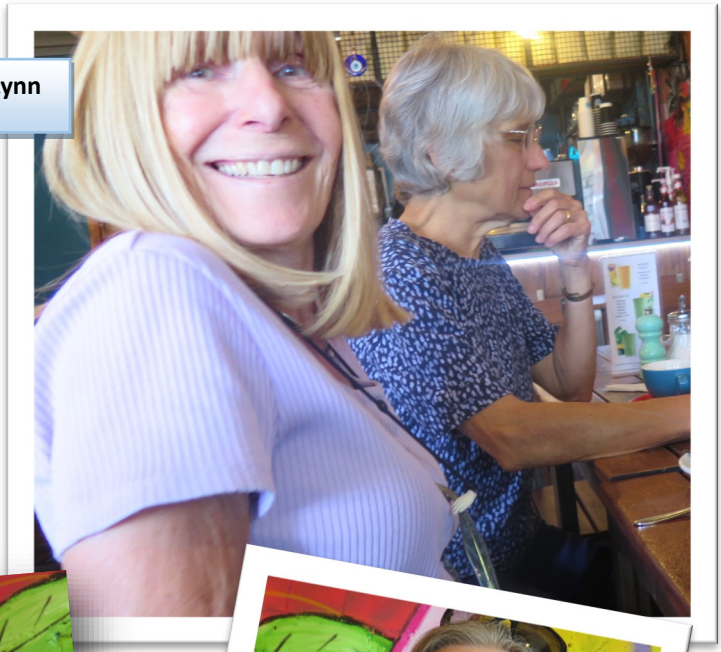
Holly taking a selfie with an alpaca

Our volunteering group

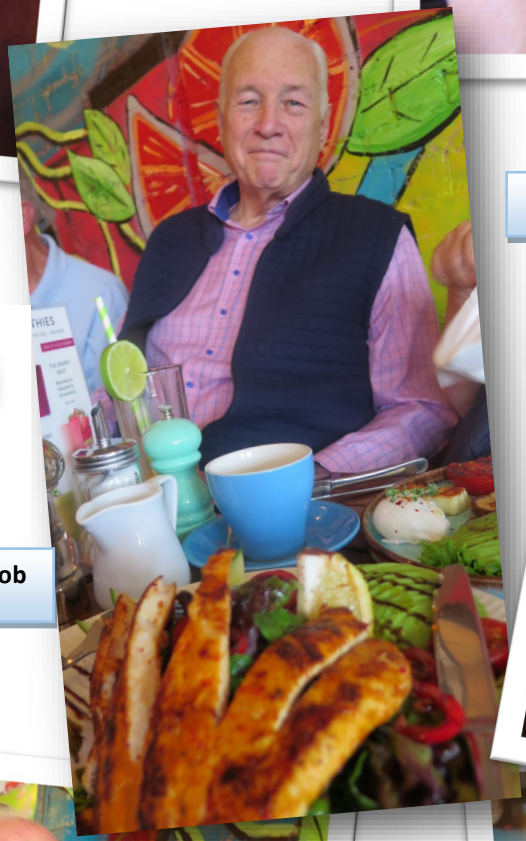
Lunch break at the rest area below Botany Bay

Bob, Michael and myself enjoy an occasional coffee morning with our respective wives and this time it was at Delisimo. Excellent as always

Ralph



Lynn



Bob

Terry

Michael

Kathy

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition was, as always, a very varied display of art. So many people say it's a load of rubbish but Lynn and I enjoy it more every year. We don't agree which are our favourites and I will bore you rigid with my personal selection...so apologies in advance.

There are so many entries that some are mounted so high up the walls it is impossible to see them. Also, many have reflective glass which, with the lighting, means one can not enjoy them as well as they should be viewed

We met Philip outside in the courtyard producing a video for U Tube and he interviewed me so (If it still exists) here is the link

https://youtu.be/eT7bwMitfcM

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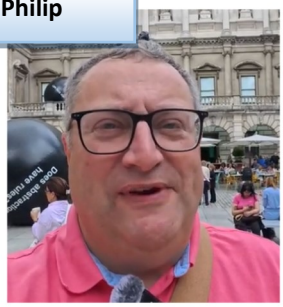
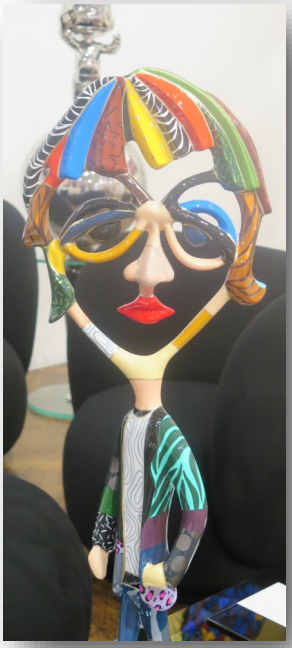
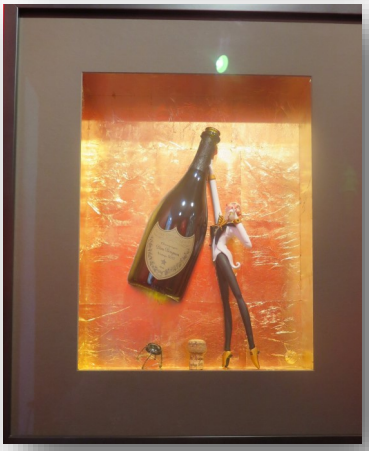
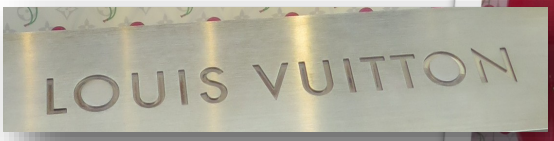
Philip



Some of these 'art works' were in Bond Street Galleries before we went into the RA






LOUIS VUITTON

LOUIS VUITTON

My (more useful) home version of my old catering fish kettle with tomatoes growing happily in it

POLICE
MAKE FOOD
NOT WAR

DIOR
DIOR

DIOR
DIOR

I LOOK IN THE MIRROR
I KNOW WHAT I NEED

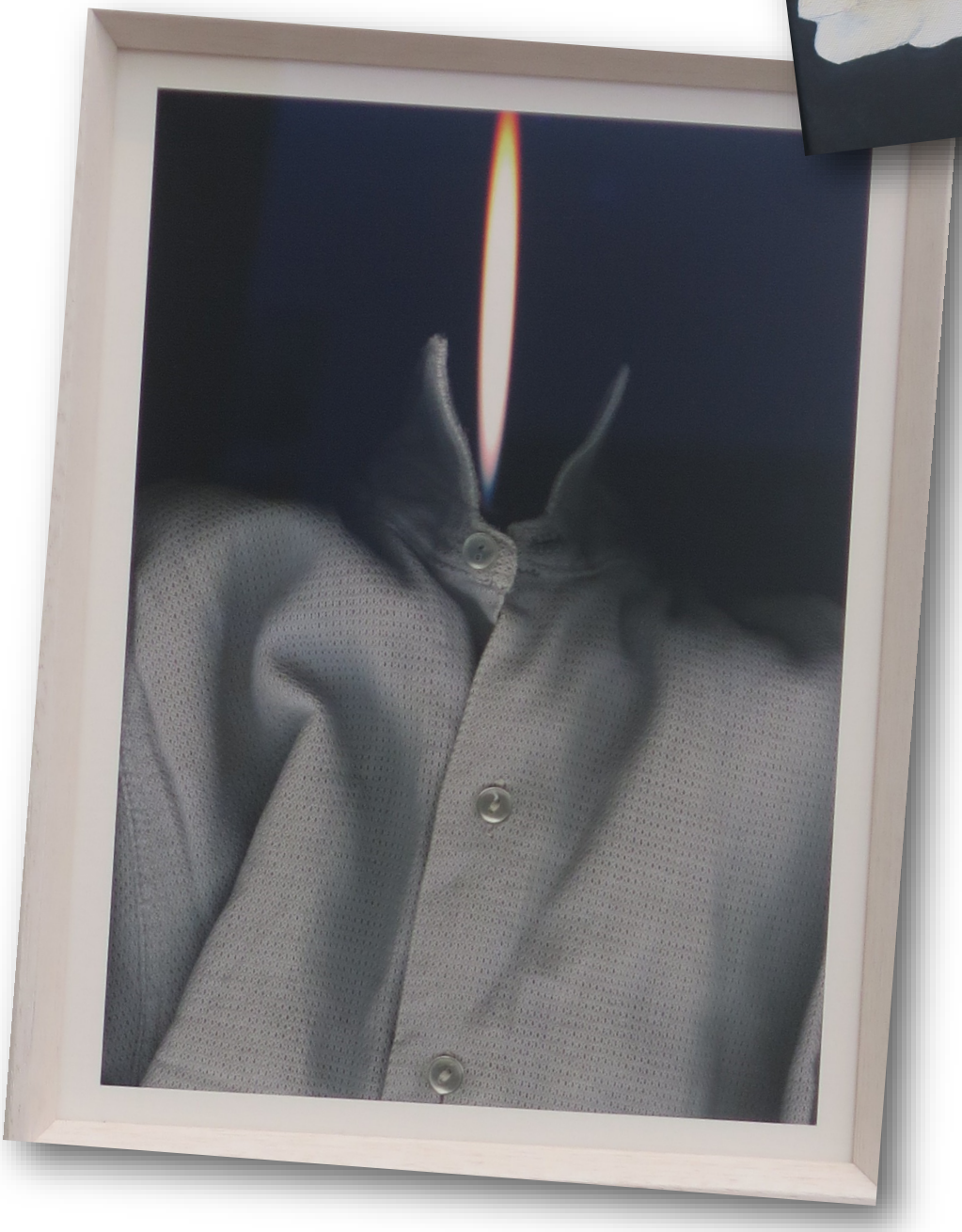
When do you know
're right?
JOHN LEWIS

NO SMOKING
health
HOLLAND & BARRETT ~ REAL FOODS
1207

11. **FIG 40.47**____*ofatumumab injection 20mg*

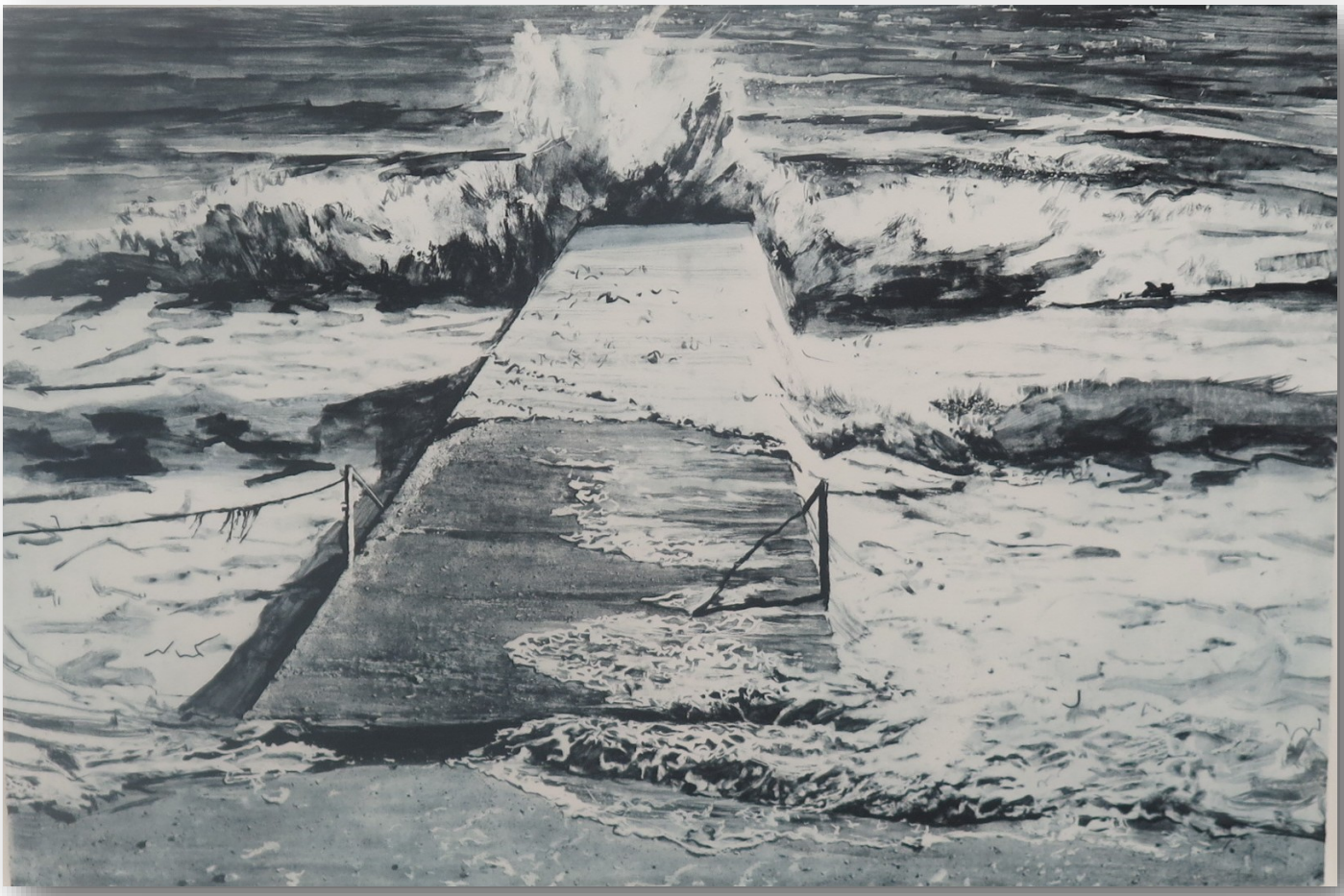
We'll meet again

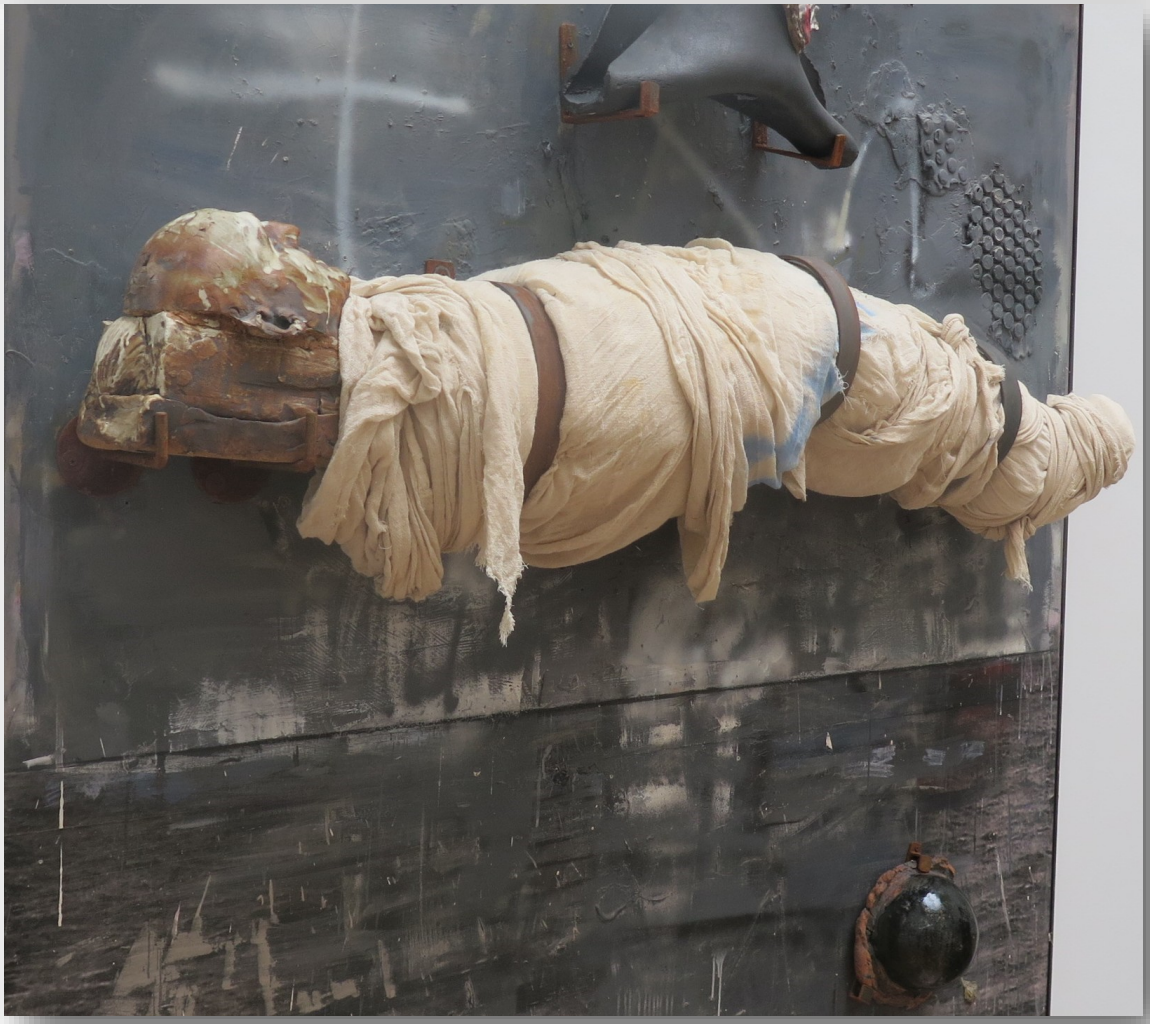
PEOPLE WATCHING



PF25

Karen Keogh
The shadow of the cypress trees





McVITIE'S
Rich Tea
Biscuits
FAMILY PACK
McVITIE'S
DARK CHOCOLATE
Digestive
MILK CHOCOLATE
Digestive

COUNTY HALL
AQUAR

Was this a joke?...it had no catalogue number . Was it placed here to see reaction? It was certainly better than some of the works on display ..(plus being useful)

I do hope you're not too bored because (groan, groan) there are lots more to come in the following volumes